

Shultz arrives in Rio

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrived here Saturday to spend the weekend relaxing before continuing his Latin American tour Monday. Shultz arrived from Brasilia, the modern inland capital about 1,200 kilometres southwest of Rio, where he met Friday with Brazilian President Jose Sarney and high officials. In Rio he also had lunch with private businessmen Saturday with no access to the press and would spend the weekend relaxing. Rio, on the southeast Atlantic coast, is Brazil's tourist centre. Shultz will continue Monday his 10-day, nine-country tour. He will go to Bolivia first and then to Costa Rica, Honduras and El Salvador. On Wednesday he will attend the inauguration of Ecuador's new President Rodrigo Borja. In Brazil the secretary got unexpected support on the U.S. stand towards Nicaragua. Brazilian Foreign Minister Roberto de Alencar Soárez told Shultz Friday that Nicaragua was "out of line" and must "return to the democratic path." Soárez said his remarks were "personal" but the statement was still considered unusually strong for Brazil, which traditionally has advocated non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Baker resigns, Brady named successor

WASHINGTON (AP) — Treasury Secretary James Baker resigned Friday to take command of old friend George Bush's presidential campaign. President Ronald Reagan then named banker Nicholas F. Brady to the cabinet post for the final months of his administration, which will end Jan. 21. "You've been a secret of our success. Now Jim, go do it for George," Reagan said in a televised announcement from the White House with the old treasury secretary and the new one by his side. "I'm pleased that I've been able to nominate such an able successor... I cannot imagine anyone more qualified," the president said of Brady. Brady is co-chairman of Dillon, Read and Co., a New York investment banking house. His appointment as treasury secretary is subject to confirmation by two-thirds of the 100-member Senate.

IRA claims responsibility for bombing

BELFAST (R) — The Irish Republican Army (IRA) said Saturday it planted a bomb that injured four people at a British army base in West Germany Friday. The explosion at Roy barracks in the Duesseldorf district of Ratingen came at the end of one of the bloodiest weeks of violence in Northern Ireland this year. Three British soldiers and a West German woman were hurt in the blast. The IRA also killed a British soldier in a bomb blast in a London barracks Monday, and five people have been killed in IRA attacks in the province in the past week. "The Irish Republican Army claims responsibility for the bomb attack at the Roy barracks," the group said in a statement issued in Belfast.

Italy to help Sudan fight floods

ROME (R) — Italy said Saturday it would send urgent aid to Sudan to help the country tackle disastrous floods and storms that had particularly hit refugee camps around Khartoum and the border with Ethiopia. "Italy intends to give a positive reply to the Sudanese government's request for urgent humanitarian aid, following the floods and bad weather which have been devastating the country for several weeks," a Foreign Ministry statement said. The ministry said Christian Democratic Senator Gilberto Bonalumi, an under-secretary at the ministry, would travel to Khartoum next week to discuss the situation.

India reports shoot-out with Pakistan

SRINAGAR (R) — Indian Defence Minister K.C. Pant said Saturday that Indian troops recently repulsed a Pakistani attack on Indian positions guarding a strategic glacier high in the Himalayas. He told a news conference the alleged attack occurred on the Siachen Glacier in the last week in July, but that the problem was quickly defused by commanders from both sides who met to talk it over. Pant said there were no casualties in the latest of many exchanges of fire by troops on the glacier, which controls routes into India. He also said there were frequent exchanges of fire with Pakistani troops along the border between the two countries in Kashmir.

Pakistan reports downing Afghan plane

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan shot down a Afghan fighter-bomber which was violating its airspace Thursday, state-run Pakistan Television reported Saturday. It quoted a Defence Ministry spokesman as saying the wreckage of the plane had been found inside Pakistani territory. It said the Afghan aircraft penetrated 16 kilometres into the country before being intercepted by a Pakistan air force F-16 fighter which shot it down. The television said nothing about the fate of the Afghan plane's pilot.

Egypt revives plan to deepen Suez

CAIRO (R) — The World Bank and the Arab Fund for Economic Development have agreed to finance a \$2 million feasibility study for a project to deepen and widen the Suez Canal, a canal authority spokesman said Saturday. He told Reuters the study to expand the waterway to handle ships with draughts of up to 67 feet, compared with the present 53 feet, had not yet been commissioned. He declined to give an estimate of total costs. The proposed project, the second phase of a two-stage scheme, would increase the size of vessels able to transit the canal fully laden from 150,000 to 260,000 deadweight tonnes. Canal Authority Chairman Ezzat Adel has said supertankers of more than 500,000 tonnes can now sail through the 195-kilometre canal in ballast.

At least 38 killed in Indian ferry mishap

NEW DELHI (AP) — A passenger ship carrying at least 300 Hindu pilgrims capsized Saturday in the Ganges River in eastern India, and 38 people were reported killed and hundreds missing. Accounts issued by the police and Indian news agencies differed on how many people were aboard and how many were killed, missing or rescued. J.M. Qureshi, director general of police, told reporters in Patna, the capital of Bihar state, that the privately owned, steam-powered launch was carrying 300 pilgrims when it capsized in the rain-swollen river. He said 100 people were rescued and that divers were looking for bodies and survivors. United News of India (UNI) said the launch was carrying 500 passengers. 38 bodies were recovered and 50 people swam to safety. It said the remaining 412 people were missing and presumed drowned. Another news agency, the Press Trust of India, said at least 400 passengers were feared drowned.

1 killed in Paris train accident

PARIS (AP) — A passenger train slammed into a terminal barrier in Paris' Gare de l'Est railway station Saturday, killing one person and injuring more than 50, rescue officials said. Several of the injured were trapped in the wreckage for up to 2½ hours in the second serious rail accident in Paris in six weeks. The train, arriving in the Gare de l'Est from Chateau Thierry, 100 kilometres northeast of Paris, hit the retaining barrier at the end of the line about 1:10 p.m. (1210 GMT), officials said. The first wagon of the four-car train smashed up on the terminal buffer, crumpling its front half. All of the seriously injured were in the first car. The other three cars and the engine, in the rear, did not leave the rails and appeared to suffer no major damage. A final casualty count given by fire department spokesman Raoul Vigier was one dead, nine seriously injured and 48 who suffered minor injuries. Seven people were trapped in the wreckage. The last was pulled out and sent to the hospital about 3:45 p.m. (1445 GMT).

Pakistan rejects Soviet charges

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan returned from Moscow Saturday and said he rejected charges his country had violated Afghan accords and told Soviet officials pressure "would solve nothing." He told reporters he hoped the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan would continue as scheduled after the April 14 accords signed in Geneva. Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, in a meeting with Yaqub Khan Wednesday, called Pakistani support for Afghan rebels "international terrorism." He warned that Moscow and Kabul would find ways to counter it (see related story on page 8).

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورдан تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر باللغتين العربية والإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الأردنية للأنباء

Lukman sees non-OPEC accord

LAGOS (R) — OPEC President Rilwan Lukman has said non-OPEC oil producers are still willing to reach an output curb to stabilize the oil market. "There is strong indication from non-OPEC to reach an agreement with OPEC over production," Lukman, the Nigerian oil minister, said Friday night when he returned from price talks this week in Lausanne, Switzerland. In April OPEC met non-OPEC producers in Vienna but did not agree to a proposal from the non-members for a joint production cutback. Lukman said contacts with non-OPEC producers had been maintained and he was hopeful there would be an agreement on output restraint. The OPEC secretariat said Friday the group's Secretary-General Sabotra would meet non-OPEC Mexico and Colombia during a tour of Latin America next week. Lukman said there was no way of checking non-OPEC output but this could be worked out. "We have to sit down and discuss that. But there is strong indication that there will be positive response (from non-OPEC)," he said. Lukman said crude oil prices, now more than \$4 below OPEC's set target of \$18 a barrel because of surplus, would stabilize near the group's target within the next six months.

Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs abolished; Dudin succeeds Ureikat

Cabinet undergoes limited reshuffle

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A limited cabinet reshuffle was announced by the government Saturday, abolishing the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs, dividing the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and separating the Ministry of Supply from the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

The abolition of the Ministry of Occupied Territories came in line with the Kingdom's decision to sever legal and administrative ties

with the occupied West Bank and was the latest in a series of follow-up measures in practical implementation of the decision.

Abdul Salam Kanaan will head the Ministry of Supply, which was originally part of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply headed by Hamdi Tabba. Prime Minister Zaid Rifai was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs was turned into a "Department of Palestinian Affairs" to be affiliated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the jurisdiction of Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri.

Royal decrees were issued Saturday accepting the resignation on health grounds of Rashid Ureikat as minister of labour and social development. While Marwan Dudin, who served as minister of occupied territories affairs was named the new labour minister, Dr. Fawaz Toukan was appointed minister of social development.

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Dr. Toukan was sworn in before His Majesty King Hussein Saturday. Kanaan, who is currently out of the country, will take the oath Sunday. Dudin will not have to take the oath since he is already a sworn-in minister of Rifai's cabinet.

This is the fourth cabinet

(Continued on page 5)

Fawaz Toukan

Abdul Salam Kanaan

Dudin: New department will perform bulk of abolished ministry's work

By Salameh Ne'matt
Jordan Times
Economics Correspondent

AMMAN — Marwan Dudin, who was appointed minister of labour after a Royal Decree abolished the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs Saturday, said the newly-created Department of Palestinian Affairs would take over the bulk of the abolished ministry's work.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Dudin explained that the now-abandoned development plan for the occupied territories constituted only 15 per cent of the volume of the ministry's work and that 85 per cent of the ministry's functions would be carried out by the new department to be linked to the Foreign Ministry.

Dudin said the government had no intention to dismantle all the economic and legal infrastructure

in the occupied West Bank.

"What we are doing is to dissolve whatever looked like an institutionalized relationship" with the West Bank, Dudin said in the interview. He explained that Jordan was looking into "all possible venues towards translating our political will into a clear situation."

Holiday announced

AMMAN (J.T.) — All government departments and public institutions will be closed Thursday Aug. 11, to mark the anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne, according to a statement issued by the Prime Ministry Saturday.

The minister said the limited cabinet reshuffle announced Saturday was not the final measure to be adopted by the government and that other measures might follow "until things are put in their proper perspective."

He said it was up to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to "say loud and clear" when the relationship between Jordan and the occupied West Bank has been clarified.

Acknowledging the Jordanian law would continue to be in force on the West Bank, Dudin said that since Israel occupied the area in 1967, the occupation authorities in charge of the occupied territories had been selectively applying Jordanian laws "in the way that suits them." He said the Israeli sometimes use British laws (such as expulsions) as well as Israeli laws to serve occupation purposes.

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A petit French city in Amman

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Many non-Arab embassies in Jordan, offer more than political communication links between their country and the Jordanian government. They offer cultural services, language courses and activities which portray and explain their culture to the Jordanian public.

One of the most successful cultural centres in Jordan is the French Cultural Centre located in Jabal Al Waideh. In its language department alone, the centre provides more than 1,200 students a year with French language courses at all levels.

Philippe Corbet, a French teacher at the centre, said, "We offer seven levels of French learning to those interested and several high level courses."

The twenty-year-old centre offers language courses to a minimum of 400 students per trimester. In the summer months the centre offers intensive language courses to those interested.

Corbet told the Jordan Times



A scene from one of the many films that are shown at the French Cultural Centre

the centre's courses do take into account most students' problems with French grammar.

"We follow the audio-visual method in teaching the French language until our students feel comfortable with using the language," Corbet said.

The rules of grammar are taught to students "only after this initial step is completed," he ex-

plained.

The atmosphere in the centre is conducive to learning French with minimum difficulties.

"There are many French films available; everything in the centre is written in French; we speak the language with each other throughout our time at the centre ... It is a little French city ... a French atmosphere," he said.

Although Corbet maintains that most of the students at the centre are adults, he said, "there are French language courses for children during the summer months."

Courses offered by the centre are not only French language courses.

Corbet said, "the centre offers banking courses in French and Arabic courses for French native speakers."

The centre has a French book and a music and film library "which are available to students and members free of charge," Corbet said.

The centre's other activities include showings of the latest French films, also free of charge, and sponsoring lectures and art shows.

Theatre by the people, for the people

The Palestinian theatre troupe Sanabel is one of only two full-time theatre troupes on the West Bank, the other being the well-established El Hakawati, who pioneered the project for a permanent theatre complex in Jerusalem.

Sanabel was established at the end of 1984 by a group of actors who were well experienced in theatre on the West Bank, where groups have been forming and reforming since the 1970s. Sanabel's approach is that of committed theatre, which tackles the actual political, social and economic problems of the people for whom it performs.

In fact, Sanabel's play, "Waiting for the Dawn" was held up at the censor's office for several weeks after its first three performances in October 1987, and

was only released after a legal battle. The play, which was inspired by the work of a South African author, was written by the actors themselves, and involved field research in different parts of the West Bank and Gaza in order to bring the people's problems to light.

The message of "Waiting for the Dawn" is simple, and is summarised by the lines of the opening song: "There's a wall inside and a wall outside; Don't just sit and wait for dawn; Light a candle with your own two hands; Let your own eyes be the light."

Sanabel's other plays have included "Dogs and Numbers," produced in 1986. Based on two plays by the Syrian playwright Saadallah Wannous, "Dogs" had as its motto, "Those who sleep today will never awaken."

An earlier play, "Mr. General, Sir", was based on three plays by Lebanese, Egyptian and Iranian playwrights, and tackled the subject of dictatorship in the Third World. Other plays like "The Festival" were written by the troupe's lead actor and director Ahmad Abu Saloum.

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greatly over the years, in terms of acting, directing and decor. But the troupe faced a serious problem in trying to reach out to the public. Apart from facilities on offer at the Nuzha-El Hakawati theatre in Jerusalem, suitable outlets do not exist.

Sanabel was frequently invited to perform in other towns and villages, but the lack of basic facilities like lighting and sound equipment meant it was difficult to take up the invitation. Sanabel often found themselves performing on makeshift stages in courtyards, with the resulting loss in quality.

Recently, the troupe has found the funds to purchase sound and lighting equipment, which will certainly increase their mobility and outreach programmes, other factors permitting ... Tammihi.

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Jordan to boost tourist services at Mount Nebo

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Tourism plans to boost tourist services at the Mount Nebo archaeological site west of Madaba by establishing a resthouse and providing the area with water and electricity, according to a Ministry of Tourism official.

He said a team of archaeologists led by Father Michele Piccirillo from the Franciscan Order is continuing excavations at the site, which overlooks the Dead Sea and the Jordan Valley.

Father Piccirillo, who leads a team of 30 engineers, highly skilled specialists and archaeologists, has already created a model resthouse within the archaeolo-

University of Jordan studies water in dams

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Water Research and Study Centre at the University of Jordan is involved in a study of water stored in reservoirs behind dams in Jordan to define their nature and quality and determine the prospects of use for domestic, agricultural or industrial purposes.

The study revealed that water stored behind the Wadi Al Arah, Wadi Ziqab, Wadi Shubat, Kafraim and King Talal dams is constantly exposed to pollutants, which greatly reduce the prospect of utilisation.

According to a report in Sawt Al Shaah Arabic daily, the study

also reveals the presence of bilharzia snails in the reservoirs, a serious source of bilharzia disease.

Apart from the bilharzia danger, the paper said the study reveals that all surface water in Jordan is exposed to chemical and biological reactions because it is open to all forms of pollutants.

The University of Jordan, where the centre is based, has offered JD 27,000 to cover part of the cost of a three-year research project, while the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) plans to provide JD 60,800.

According to a report in Sawt Al Shaah Arabic daily, the study

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 774111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
16:00 Koran
16:25 Cartoons and children programmes
17:00 Sports
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:20 Local programme
18:25 The world of prairies
18:30 Series: ALF
18:45 Local programme
19:45 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:40 Arabic series
21:35 Local programme
22:10 Varieties program in Arabic
23:00 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Varieties program (contd.)

PROGRAMME TWO
16:00 La Chanson aux Chansons
16:30 Rue Coton
16:45 News in French
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 News in Hebrew
21:30 Check it Out
21:10 Documentary: "Footsteps"
22:00 News in English
22:20 Magazine: "Powy Towers"
22:30 Radio Jordon

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz FM
& partly on 9560 KHz, SW
Tel: 774111-19

67:00 Morning Show
67:30 Newscast
68:00 Morning Show
68:30 News Summary
69:00 To Concert
69:45 News Summary
70:00 Pop Session
70:45 News Summary
71:00 Pop Session contd.
71:45 News Bulletin
72:10 Instrumentals
72:30 Science Report
73:00 Concert Hour
73:45 News Summary
74:00 Instrumentals
74:30 Old Favourites
75:00 Listener's Choice
75:45 News Summary
76:00 Rhythms and Blues
76:30 News in Arabic
77:00 News with S.A.
77:30 Evening Show
78:00 News Summary
78:30 Evening Show continued
79:00 News Summary

22:00 Evening Show continued
23:00 News Summary
23:57 News Headline
24:00 Close Down

WORLDNET

(At the American Cultural Centre)
MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 1174,
1195 kHz, 200 Hz

07:00 News 07:10 VOA Morning 08:00 News
08:10 VOA Morning 09:00 News
09:10 VOA Morning 10:00 News 10:10 News
10:15 Encounters 10:30 Special
English News & Features 10:30 News
10:40 Critic's Choice 10:30 Issues in
the News 11:00 News 10:10 English
11:00 Special English News & Features
22:00 News 22:10 Sunday Report 22:30
Music, USA Standards 23:00 News
23:10 The Concert Hall 23:30 Editorial
24:00 News 08:10 New Horizons 08:30 News
Satellite File No. 269 (English)
Satellite File No. 269 (French)

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 730, 1323 kHz

07:00 Newswise 07:30 English Songs
07:45 Reflections #758 Financial
Review 08:00 World News 08:00
Twenty-Fours Hours: News Summary
08:30 Personal View 08:45 The World
Today 09:00 Newsdesk 09:30 Meridian
10:00 World News 10:00 Twenty-Four
Hours: News Summary 10:30 From the
Weeklies 10:45 Network 11:00
World News 11:00 News 11:15 A
Journey Through the World 11:30 World
News Broadcast Review 12:15 The
World Today 12:30 Financial News
followed by Sports Roundup 12:45
Personal View 13:00 News Summary
followed by Here's Humpty 13:15 Let-
ter from America 13:30 Feature 14:00
World News 14:00 News about Britain
14:15 The A-Z of Hollywood 14:30
Meridian 15:00 Radio Newsred 15:15
Multi-track 3 15:45 Sports Roundup
16:00 World News 16:15 Twenty-Four
Hours: News Summary 16:30 Network
UK 16:35 Sportsworld 16:45 News
Summary 16:45 Radio News 16:55
Sportsround 19:00 World News 19:00
News about Britain 19:15 Sportsworld
20:00 World News 20:45 Sports
Roundup 21:00 Newsdesk 21:30 Prom
Concert followed by News Summary
22:30 Feature 23:00 World News 23:00
Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
23:30 Meridian 24:00 News Summary
followed by A Life in the UN 06:15 The
Idea of Europe 07:00 World News
07:00 From Our Own Correspondent
07:25 Nature Notebook 08:00 Reflec-
tions 08:45 Sports Roundup 08:45
World News 09:00 Words 09:15 The
Tony Myatt Request Show

VOICE OF AMERICA

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1195 kHz, 200 Hz

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American Centre .. 644371

British Council .. 636476

French Cultural Centre .. 637000

Goethe Institute .. 644993

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Spanish Cultural Centre .. 637777

Turkish Cultural Center .. 645105

Holy Art Centre .. 661716/6

Husseini Youth City .. 661716/6

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Y.W.M.A. 664251

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Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843555

Abdul Hamid Shoman
Foundation .. 672541

Amman Municipal Library .. 637111

Foundatio .. 672541

Amman Municipal Library .. 637111

National News

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

RADUATION: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday attended the graduation ceremony of the eighth batch of the Al Andalus College at the Palace of Culture in the Aj Husseini Youth City. At the end of the ceremony, Princess Basma presented certificates and prizes to the 200 graduates.

ENDORSEMENT: The cabinet Saturday endorsed the minutes of meetings and resolutions of the joint supreme Jordanian-Syrian committee which convened in Damascus on July 2. The cabinet also endorsed the cooperation agreement between Jordan and North Yemen which deals with dispatching doctors and technicians to work in the health institutions in North Yemen in accordance with the recommendations of the joint supreme committee which convened in Sana'a in February.

FIRING AT WEDDINGS: Prime Minister Zaid Rifai has instructed Minister of Interior Rajai Dajani to give special concern to the question of firings at weddings which have resulted in the death and injury of innocent people. The prime minister asked the minister to give specific instructions to the Public Security Department to deal strictly with violators of the law and to impose all possible penalties on those who continue the process of firing at weddings.

ASSAD MEETS KUWAITI ENVOY: Minister of Higher Education Nasseruddin Al Assad met in his office Saturday with Kuwaiti's ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Al Bahi. They reviewed bilateral cooperation in higher educational and the implementation of agreements signed by the two countries in this respect.

MINISTER OPENS COURSE: A training course for officials employed by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment opened here Saturday. Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Yousef Hamdan Al Jaber opened the course, which is being sponsored by the Yarmouk University for 35 officials, who will be oriented on theoretical and practical work related to modern management of government offices, and will attend a six-day training course in the use of computers at Yarmouk University.

TAFILEH HEALTH COURSE: A six-day training course for women involved in health work ended at Tafileh Saturday. Fifteen local women attended the course, which was organised by the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund.

NATIONAL GUIDEBOOK: The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage decided to issue a national guidebook containing the dates of seminars, conferences, public lectures and other cultural activities in the Kingdom. The guidebook, according to a ministry official, will also include the dates of workshops, training courses and other activities that are designed to orient the public on Jordanian life.

TENDERS FOR SCHOOL ANNEXES: Zarqa Governor Eid Al Qatameh has endorsed a number of tenders for building annexes to schools at the cost of JD 28,800.

HAJ HASSAN MEETS 2 ENVOYS: Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan met separately in his office Saturday with the Swiss and South Korean ambassadors to Jordan. Haj Hassan Saturday received a message from North Yemeni Transportation Minister Ahmad Mohammad Al Anasi. The message expressed gratitude for the consultative duty the transportation corporation undertook with regard to training Yemeni manpower.

SALT-ZAY ROAD PROJECT: Salt municipality has awarded a JD 350,000 tender to a local contractor to build a road linking Salt with Zay summer resort and Al Arida road leading to the Jordan Valley. The three-kilometre road will be completed in two weeks.

New study to boost agricultural production

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government prepared a study to boost the agricultural sector's production in the Kingdom and provide measures enabling farmers to overcome losses and the consequences of natural disasters, according to a report in Al Dustour Arabic daily.

The paper said the study provides for subsidies to be paid to farmers when the prices of crops plunge below the minimum level.

The government was also urged to charge farmers 80 per cent of profits made by selling their crops above a price ceiling.

Any amounts collected from farmers' wheat-selling crops at very high prices will be used by the Ministry of Agriculture in the form of subsidies to local producers, the paper noted.

The study, according to the paper, recommends that agents and go-betweens be excluded from the buying and selling operations, since they had been in the practice of charging large commissions from farmers for marketing their crops. It also proposes the establishment of a government-subsidised fund to offer soft loans to local farmers.

Centre opens for West Bank Tawjih students

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A centre opened in Amman Saturday to accept applications from West Bank Tawjih students for Ministry of Education transcripts.

The ministry announced it will open centres in Amman, Zarqa, Irbid, Salt, Ma'an and Karak to receive such applications and provide transcripts required by students for enrolling in community colleges or universities here and abroad.

The ministry, which supervised

the Tawjih examinations in both banks and published the results last month, has set up a number of committees to endorse certificates and transcripts.

Applications for Jordanian universities are being processed by post offices around the country and some 21,000 students from those who passed this year's Tawjih examinations could be admitted to community colleges and universities in Jordan, according to press reports.

Aqaba-Nweibeh route congestion

AQABA (J.T.) — The Aqaba-Nweibeh land-sea route witnessed congestion resulting from large numbers of passengers travelling to Egypt in Jordan in June, the beginning of the summer season.

However, thanks to new facilities introduced at the port, most of the problems have been overcome, according to a report in Al Dustour Arabic daily.

The report said 38,800 passengers and 5,886 vehicles were transported across the route via ferry boats in June, causing authorities to increase the normal number of trips between the two terminals.

The report quoted Aqaba Port officials as saying that additional trips transported 3,122 more passengers and 687 more cars to Aqaba and Nweibeh.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- Art exhibition by Khalid 'Atiyah at the Zarqa Club for the Deaf and Dumb.
- Architectural exhibition at the Jordan National Museum of Fine Arts at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- Art exhibition by Jaber Abdul Fattah Nashid at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILMS

- Feature film: Cross Creek. The American Centre at 7:00 p.m.



The Health Ministry director general Saturday inspects the premises of the Chest Disease Department at Jabal Amman (Petra photo)

Health Ministry official opens new premises for Chest Disease Section

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Ministry of Health Saturday opened the new premises for the Chest Diseases Department at Jabal Hussein in Amman.

The new premises house units for examination of patients, X-ray units, laboratories, administration and the wings, a pharmacy and other facilities.

The new section has been sup-

plied with modern equipment and a powerful electronic microscope required for testing, according to Health Ministry officials.

They said that the Irbid Chest Diseases Centre will be supplied by a similar microscope.

According to the officials chest diseases centres, 10 of which exist in the Kingdom, deal mainly with tuberculosis, and the services are offered free of charge.

The new premises were opened by the ministry's secretary general who represented Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh.

Officials said that the two-storey building will offer six to nine month treatment courses after which most patients are 100 per cent cured.

Committee buys 10,125 tonnes of cereals from Karak farmers

KARAK (Petra, J.T.) — A government-appointed committee in charge of purchasing locally produced cereals bought 10,125 tonnes of cereals from Jordanian farmers in the Karak Governorate, according to committee sources here.

The sources said the committee has now completed its task in the governorate and reported to the Ministry of Agriculture on the purchases operations.

The ministry appointed committees in Karak, Jweideh, Deir Alla and Irbid to purchase wheat,

barley, lentils and chick peas from local farmers at subsidised prices.

The government is in the practice of purchasing cereals from farmers at prices above the international markets' rates in a bid to encourage them to boost output.

In the meantime, it was announced in Karak that the local cooperative organisation has made preparations to set up an agricultural exhibition on Aug. 15.

The exhibition will display samples of crops produced by farmers grouped according to

cooperative societies in the governorate. The exhibition is designed to orient the public on methods by which cooperatives are boosting production.

The Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO), which supervises these activities, plans to hold similar exhibitions in other parts of the Kingdom, according to JCO officials.

They said special committees have been set up to prepare for the exhibitions.

VTC opens two-week seminar for instructors

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) Saturday opened a two-week seminar for VTC instructors around the country.

programme of free vocational training to all able-bodied Jordanians seeking employment in the construction business, hotel management, sales, and ready-made clothing industries.

A statement said training for employment in these sectors lasts between two and five months and offers the participants sufficient skills.

VTC training programmes are being offered through 10 major centres and several smaller ones under a comprehensive programme for young men and women, according to the statement.

In the past 10 years, the VTC offered training to 11,000 apprentices under a comprehensive programme for young men and women, according to the statement.

It said the VTC cooperates with institutions in the Jordanian private and public sector and has strong links with Arab and international organisations.

VTC Director General Dr. Burhan Shreideh, who opened the first session, said within its 1986-1990 five-year plan the VTC will expand its vocational training programmes by training no less than 30,000 people.

Participants in the two-week seminar will hear lectures and do practical work on managing training programmes at vocational training centres and preparing training courses for students.

The VTC in a while announced that the door was now open for training courses at its centres in different parts of the country, and said at least 3,400 trainees will be accepted within an organised apprenticeship programme this year.

Shreideh said among the

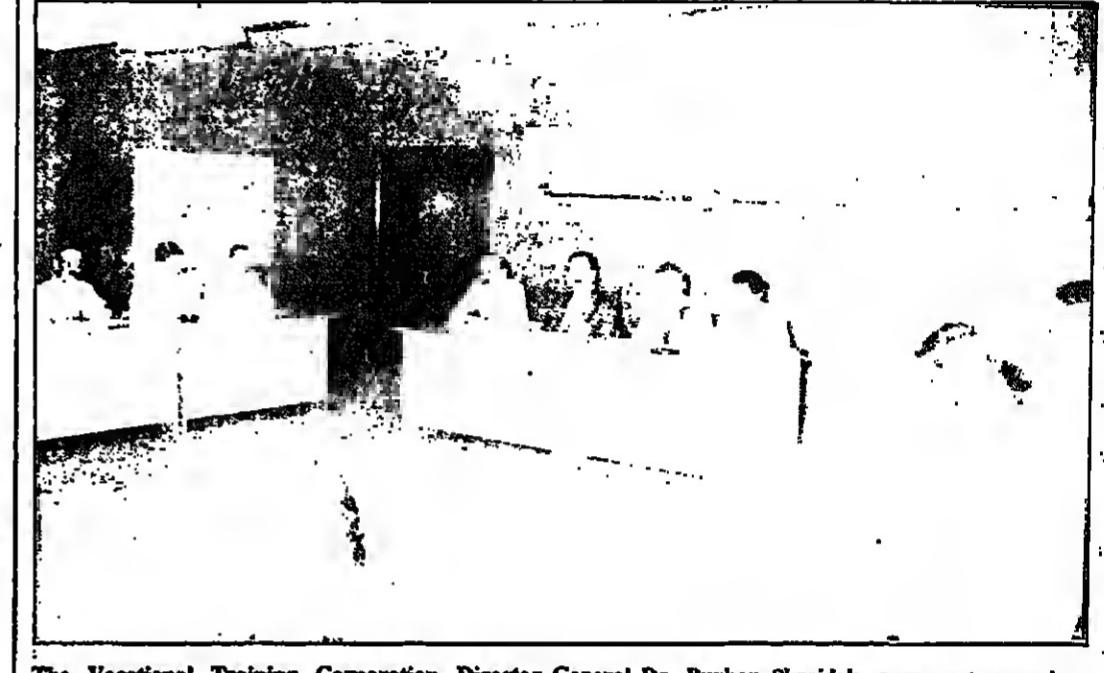
apprentices will be 150 females to be absorbed by the vocational training centre for women in Marka.

Most of those to be recruited for the new courses will be students who completed the third preparatory stage at schools, but failed to pass the Ministry of Education's first secondary admission examinations in June.

The Ministry of Education Saturday announced the results of the admission examinations taken by 63,834 students of whom 53,945 passed and will be accepted in secondary schools.

According to Shreideh, registration for apprenticeship courses will begin Sunday.

On Thursday, the VTC announced it had embarked on a



The Vocational Training Corporation Director General Dr. Burhan Shreideh, opens a two-week seminar for instructors (Petra photo)

PSD buys three helicopters

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) purchased three police helicopters with special equipment to monitor and control road accidents.

The helicopters are expected to be delivered before the end of this year, PSD Director General Abdol Hadi Al Majali announced in a newspaper interview published Saturday.

The helicopters, which are fitted with special television cameras, will be operated by the PSD but maintained by the Royal Jordanian Air Force, Majali said in an interview with Al Dustour Arabic Daily.

The helicopters will be helpful to the PSD in its endeavours to boost a comprehensive security programme around the country, Majali noted.

He said the new system, which involves the public in police work by enhancing the relationship between the public and the police, has proven successful.

The idea, Majali noted, was the brainchild of a 1986 meeting of Arab police chiefs and was approved and encouraged by INTERPOL.

This year the PSD will complete the construction of 10 comprehensive security centres around the country. If all goes well, the centres in the plan will be complete in two years, Majali noted.

Referring to road accidents, he said the PSD compiles statistics by international standards, which count the number of dead or injured in road accidents for every 10,000 cars.

In highly advanced nations such as Sweden, the rate of death from road accidents stands at 5-10 per 10,000 cars; in a densely populated country such as India, it is 200 per 10,000 cars. In Jordan, the rate is 19 killed for every 10,000 cars, according to statistics between 1985 and 1987, Majali noted.

He said studies have shown that 95 per cent of the road accidents are due to human error, while only five per cent are due to the road conditions or problems with the vehicle.

Referring to prisons, he said they are now highly organised and offer inmates a variety of facilities, helping their rehabilitation.

"Shortly, the PSD will invite the press to tour a number of prisons such as the model one in Swaqa to see and report on prison conditions, which are similar as

far as quality of service to those found in highly advanced nations," Majali said.

Last April, Majali reported that 18,129 crimes took place in Jordan in 1987, registering a drop of 7.4 per cent in general and a decline of 18.4 per cent in the number of felonies.

In reply to a question, Majali said the police in Jordan do not resort to beating detainees because beating often leads to adverse results. Those responsible for beating prisoners were said to be severely reprimanded.

In general, crime was said to be under control in the Kingdom.

But, at least 15 per cent of the total number of crimes remains unaccounted for.

However, this is a good ratio compared with other countries," the PSD chief noted.

Referring to smuggling, Majali said it is another issue no less important than the drug trafficking operations that have been going on in Jordan.

But, he said, smugglers have been carrying out their operations for trade rather than political reasons.

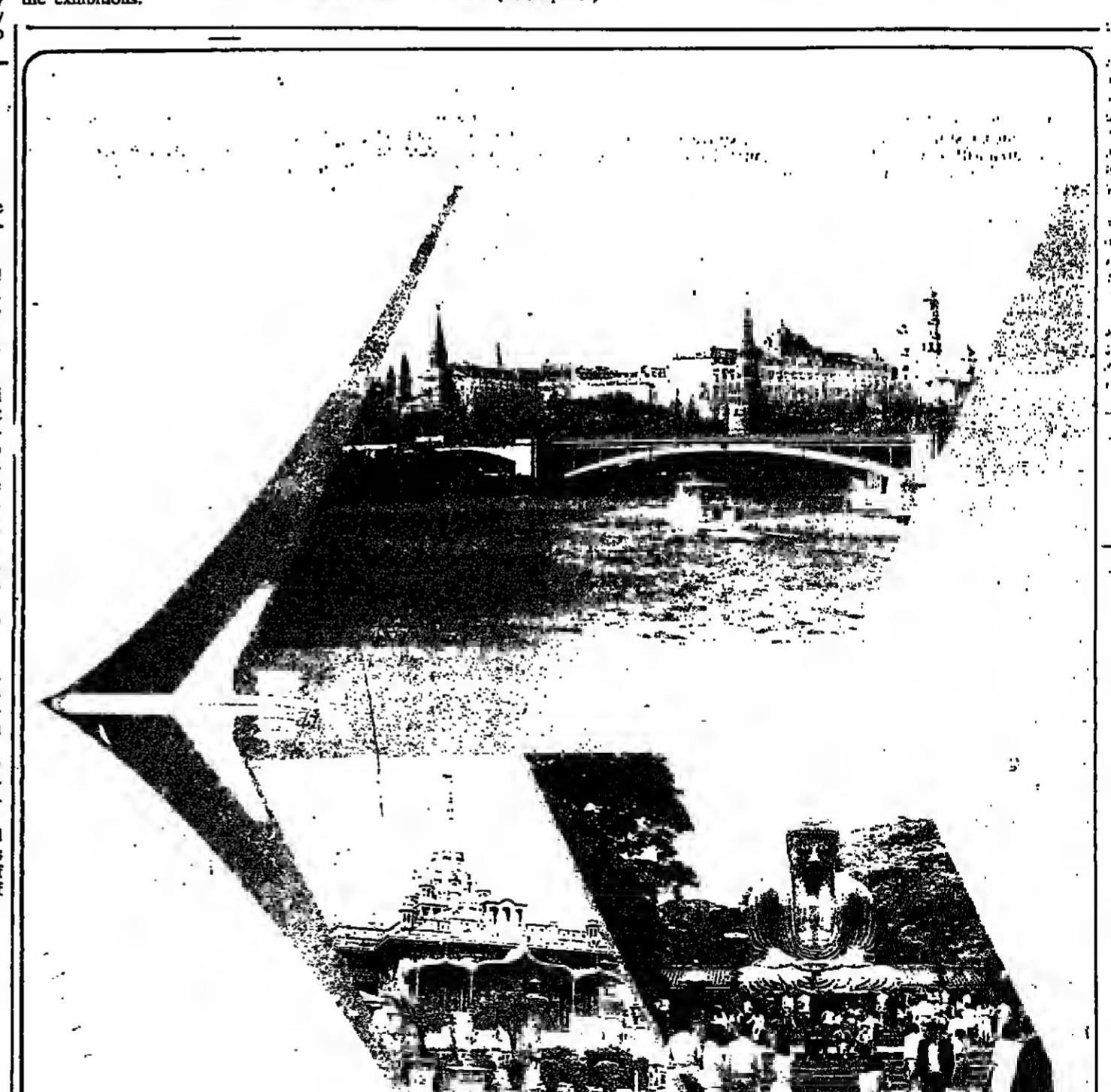
The PSD director announced in the interview that the PSD is currently studying the prospect of opening stores for the sale of arms and guns.

KARAK (Petra) — The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) last year spent JD 1 million to lay 45 kilometres long sewerage pipes in Karak, and work is now underway for linking the network with Karak homes, according to WAJ department director here.

He said that the project also entailed building a wastewater treatment plant at the cost of JD 900,000 and an additional 330 metre-long pipe to drain away the waste water to the plant.

The WAJ official said that a water pipeline has been laid linking Ghor Al Safi with the tomato paste processing plant at the cost of JD 65,000.

He said water is now sufficient for all citizens in the Karak re-



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Jordan Times

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Editorial and advertising offices:

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University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

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Waiting for the PLO

DURING the past week, prominent personalities, writers, columnists and ordinary citizens have expressed regret over Jordan's decision to respond to Arab and PLO demands by severing ties with the West Bank. The dismay over the breaking of unity between the two banks of Jordan was genuinely expressed. This is only a natural reaction. People, any people, adapt to such changing circumstances slowly and cautiously. The decision was forced on Jordan and this was repeatedly made clear by Jordan. Almost all Palestinian and Arab political circles and media have welcomed the decision. Meanwhile, Jordanians and Palestinians on both sides of the River Jordan, who might be adversely affected by the decision, are waiting in apprehension that borders on fear.

Thousands of employees in the West Bank have already lost their jobs. At the moment, they are waiting for their new employer, hopefully the PLO. In fact, not only the West Bank inhabitants are waiting for the PLO, but so is everybody else. Jordan has been waiting for the PLO for some time now.

We do not want to patronise the PLO; we would only like to remind it that it is improper to keep people waiting, especially one's own.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Face the facts

BY Monday, the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories enters its ninth month and all indications point to the fact that the Palestinian people are continuing to step up their resistance activity against the occupation rule. Needless to say, the momentum of struggle against the Israelis and terrorism is a true expression of the Arab masses' determination to thwart the Israeli leadership's dreams and to attain freedom. The uprising has proven to the world that Israel is no longer in possession of the initiative in the Arab-Israeli conflict; and that sooner or later, the Israelis will have to face the facts and deal with realities. The uprising, which is now nearing the point where civil disobedience is becoming a reality, will continue, and will assume more elaborate forms until the national aspirations of the oppressed people have been achieved. For this reason, the need is great now for the Arab countries to adopt a common strategy in the face of the coming stage, as they wait for the international conference to be convened. The Arabs are now called upon to adopt a unified stand and take active and speedy measures designed to extend meaningful support and assistance to their kinsmen under Israeli rule.



Al Dastour: Enhancing Palestinian identity

JORDAN'S decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank should be viewed as being closely linked to Jordan's national and historic role regarding the Palestinian cause. The decision, coming from a country that has been constantly committed to Arab causes and serving national interest, is a part of the Kingdom's endeavours to enhance the Palestinian identity and the oppressed people's steadfastness and resistance. Jordan has been a haven for Palestinian refugees and a staunch supporter of Palestinian rights and interests. There is no doubt, then, that the Arab people in general and the Palestinians in particular appreciate the Kingdom's long standing efforts and support for their just causes, and the great sacrifices it offered in the service of the Arab Nation. Jordan, which is acting in the spirit of the Great Arab Revolt and its principles, takes pride in its services to the Arab World and continues to adhere to its national goals which it hopes to achieve under King Hussein's guidance and directives.

Sawt Al Shaab: The sole representative

JORDAN'S decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank came after consultations with the PLO, and anyone claiming otherwise must be ignorant of or absent from the deliberations of Arab leaders at the Arab Summit meetings and the Jordanian-PLO meetings. We do not want any Arab circle to give adverse interpretations of the facts; and we do not want such circles to offer a service to the Zionist propaganda machinery in this respect. We also do not want any one to misinterpret or misunderstand the Jordanian decisions and measures with regard to the West Bank, because they actually came in response to and in harmony with the resolutions of Arab Summit meetings, which reaffirmed that the PLO remains the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The Arabs have been insisting that the PLO assume this status ever since the Rabat Summit in 1974. Jordan has responded favourably to this demand and decided to open the way for the PLO to assume its full responsibilities before the whole world. Therefore, we expect the PLO to deal with the Jordanian decisions and their results with a spirit of responsibility so that no adverse effects will be imposed on the oppressed people of Palestine and their current uprising.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Determining economic liquidity

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

ONE of the most crucial objectives of the monetary policy practised by any central bank is to influence the level of liquidity in the domestic economy. Central banks employ certain instruments to achieve this objective, such as the ratio of cash reserves to be held at the central bank, the rediscount rate, and the open market operations. Thus, central banks were always able to either pump more liquidity or suck excess liquidity as they see fit based on whether or not the liquidity is lacking or in excess.

The Central Bank of Jordan is fully aware that some of the above-mentioned traditional monetary instruments are not effective in the Jordanian environment. That is why CBJ is always looking for other instruments such as fixing interest rates, swap operations, refinancing arrangements, and direct administrative interventions.

Before we discuss the importance of the monetary policy, the effectiveness of various traditional and administrative tools, and the need for the Central Bank to influence the level of liquidity in the Jordanian economy, we have to determine whether the current liquidity in the national economy is too high, too low, or just right. We have also to agree on whether the Central Bank should, under the current situation, create more liquidity or absorb part of it.

In a recent lecture delivered by Dr. Maher Shukri, deputy governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, hosted by the Association of the Amman Financial Market Intermediaries, justification was given for the new regulations issued to reorganise and enhance a secondary

market for government bonds. He expressed the strong desire of the Central Bank to have effective tools which could be used to influence the volume of liquidity in the economy.

We asked the deputy governor what the Central Bank would have done with this tool if it were available today. Would the Central Bank use the tool to increase or to reduce the liquidity? In other words, is the current liquidity in the economy, as perceived by the Central Bank, too high or too low? The answer was, I do not know. More specifically, I cannot answer on the spot, as the subject has to undergo a study.

The judgment on whether or not the current level of liquidity is appropriate or not, then, is not yet determined. No one knows for sure whether we need more or less liquidity to enable the economy to grow without inflation while protecting the current account of the balance of payments from bigger deficits. There is no consensus on whether the Central Bank should intervene to influence the level of liquidity, much less on whether such intervention should be on the give or take side.

Needless to say, the level of liquidity in the economy is something, while the rate of liquidity of the banking system is something else. The two indicators should not be confused. We can definitely see a case where the economy is too liquid, while the liquidity of the banks is running at the bare minimum. We venture to say this is the case at the present.

The fact that liquidity ratios in banks and financial corporations are low can be demonstrated by calculating the rate after excluding offshore deposits and the 100 per cent coverage that should be mentioned in the same currencies and for matching durations. The ratio of liquidity in local currency is definitely low if positive. We can also judge the liquidity of banks by knowing the volume of loans and deposits extended by the Central Bank to support the liquidity of certain banks and finance corporations.

On the other hand, the fact that liquidity in the national economy is very high can be established by calculating the ratio of money supply to the gross national product at market prices. The ratio of money supply as narrowly defined M1 is 60 per cent in Jordan compared to 20 per cent in an advanced country such as the United States.

The ratio of money supply as loosely defined M2 is 145 per cent of the GNP (Gross National Product) in Jordan compared to 75 per cent only in the United States. In other words, the liquidity in the Jordanian economy is two to three times the liquidity in the American economy in relative terms.

I am aware that I am touching on a subject that before now was never approached. The above ideas were never tested, let alone accepted or challenged. The monetary policy makers and the economic analysts are invited to comment. Before we use whatever monetary instruments, shouldn't we determine where we stand and where we want to go from here?

Walking a tightrope in Germany

By Rayna Moss

WHEN I told friends in Israel that I was going to West Germany on a speaking tour, reactions were a mixture of jealousy at having the chance to get out of the country for a while, and unbelieving stares. "How can you bear to go there to speak about our peace movement? All the Germans want to talk about is their guilt about the Holocaust and why it's impossible for them to criticise Israel!"

When I repeated these remarks to the organisers of my tour, a German-Palestinian women's union, they laughingly groaned in agreement. But it seemed that the subject of Israel had, if anything, become more delicate than ever. In one case, a journalist dithered for over 30 minutes before gathering the courage to ask if the imprisoned Derech HaNitzotz journalists are "of the Arabic or Israeli nationality." And this was not an isolated incident. A German Jewish journalist asked me at the end of a two hour interview if I had anything to add. I said that I would like to comment on the issue of whether Germans could criticise the Israeli government.

no escaping the issue. Even Amnesty International activists who have no hesitations about accusing governments around the world of abusing human rights, feel in Germany that Israel must be treated with special care.

"Well, that has nothing to do with joint activities of Israeli and Palestinian women," he said, and hurriedly shut off his tape recorder.

"Even Amnesty International activists, who have no hesitations about accusing governments around the world of abusing human rights, feel in Germany that Israel must be treated with special care."

The German Jewish activists find themselves in an extremely delicate position. One told me that during the Lebanon war he helped organise demonstrations denouncing the Israeli invasion, and was bitterly hurt when some "ultra-radicals" appeared with

placards showing Begin's face on a swastika. Today he will not join any demonstration on the Palestinian issue, voicing his solidarity only in occasional writings on the subject. At a meeting on the peace process in the Middle East, the Palestinians told of a Jewish couple who, shocked by the massacre in Lebanon, printed and distributed posters against the invasion of synagogues and Jewish community centres. As a result they have been ostracised from their community.

Our delegation as a whole, whose aim was to get support for the intifada as well as for a peace programme based on the establishment of a Palestinian state, found it frustrating to have to repeat over and again why it does not help the Jewish people to disregard human rights violations or support Israel's wars. Yet we also found we walked a tightrope — Middle East International, London.

Restlessness growing in Philippines

By Robert H. Reid
The Associated Press

MANILA: Philippines — In a stark tableau, the frail old man who helped make a housewife president lectured his former protege on the failure of her administration to bring justice and change to a nation recovering from 20 years of misrule.

"You will recall that the thirst for justice was and remains the utmost desire of our people," newspaper publisher Joaquin Roces, 75, told President Ferdinand Aquino in a speech after she awarded him the legion of honour last week.

"If we... show the slightest sign that we too adopt one standard for the wrongdoer who is poor and without connections, and another for the criminal who is rich and well connected, then we would be proven liars," said Roces.

Charges that the Aquino administration has failed to live up to expectations of reform, social justice and progress are not new.

They have been aired in an unrestrained Philippine press virtually from the moment a popular uprising toppled President Ferdinand Marcos' 20-year administration in February 1986 and propelled Mrs. Aquino into office.

But such chiding was all the more dramatic coming from Roces, the dean of the Philippine press, one of Mrs. Aquino's strongest supporters and a leading figure in marshalling opposition to Marcos.

As publisher of the Manila Times, Roces gave Mrs. Aquino's late husband Benigno his first job as a war correspondent during the Korean conflict.

In 1985, Roces convinced Mrs. Aquino to run for president and organised the nationwide petition drive that put the former housewife on the ballot.

New order

But in his speech, Roces said public service in the Philippines was still all too often used for "self-aggrandizement and service to vested interests, relatives and friends."

"It was not rice, roads, bridges, water, electricity and other such mundane things that people expected of us," Roces said. "It was, and is much more: A new moral order."

Public expressions of disappointment and restlessness are increasing amid new allegations of official corruption, the slow pace of reform and human rights violations in the 19-year Communist insurgency.

There also appear to be the stirrings of disenchantment over not only the ability of the leadership to govern but also the integrity of those who govern, wrote the economic daily Business World in a recent front-

page commentary.

Even critics acknowledge that the Aquino administration can point to notable accomplishments during its more than two years in power.

They include ratification of a new, liberal constitution and restoration of a freely elected, bicameral legislature. Last year the economy grew by 5.5 per cent, although inflation has also tripled to about 9 per cent over the previous year.

Communist rebels still control thousands of villages and even stage assassinations in the capital. But leftist sources admit that the recent arrests of seven top guerrilla leaders were a major setback.

Last month, congress enacted a land reform bill after nearly a year's debate. Critics claim the programme favours landowners and falls far short of the goals of improving the lives of 4 million landless peasants.

Human rights violations

But human rights violations continue, and the government has still not prosecuted military members accused of human rights violations under the Marcos

administration.

This month, the American Bar Association, in a letter to Mrs. Aquino, expressed concern over the murders of two of five human rights lawyers slain during the past nine months. No one has been convicted of any of the killings.

Also, no one has been convicted in January 1987 killing of 12 protesters shot dead by police and marines during a march on the presidential palace for land reform.

Maj.-Gen. Ramon Montano, the senior officer in the area during the killings, was promoted last year to commander of the Philippine Constabulary, the country's paramilitary national police.

Some Western diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, generally applauded Mrs. Aquino's style and say that more decisive moves on such issues as land reform and the insurgency would have heightened, not reduced, social tensions.

They attribute much of the disappointment to lack of political realism among social activists, impatience in a youthful society and the residual effects of 20 years of dramatic, albeit ineffective.

gestures by Marcos.

But the heady days of the 1986 "Edsa revolution," as the uprising against Marcos is known here, raised high expectations of change among the 59 million Filipinos.

But two years after Marcos' ouster, the country is still bedeviled by petty corruption, bureaucratic red tape, and widespread poverty which afflicts nearly 70 per cent of the population.

Corruption

Some observers believe that continued widespread poverty may be responsible in part for growing resentment over alleged official corruption.

In a nation where millions live in makeshift shanties, the spectacle of a small urban elite, driving chauffeured cars and living in posh neighbourhoods, encourages the belief that wealth must have been gained illegally.

"Although legal proof of graft and corruption is still hard to come by, the growing public perception is that cases of these twin evils have been aggravated," said Business World.

Many good citizens have contacted the Minister of Justice on behalf of the victim, in an attempt to explain the situation. The Minister of Justice, who is rightly full of faith in his courts, declined to interfere for considerations of his own. These may be legitimate considerations, but injustice was nevertheless done.

When the Court of Appeals announced its unjust ruling, it made it in the name of His Majesty the King.

I hereby appeal to His Majesty the King, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice to restore justice to this man by giving him a chance to take his case to a higher court. Unlike the victim in this case, I believe there is still a chance for justice.

Salamah Ne'matt
Amman

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Middle East News

King: Decision serves Palestinian cause

(Continued from page 1)

man state on Palestinian soil." "These misguided efforts have gone as far as giving wrong accounts of the population in Jordan and percentages," the King said. "All these plots fall into the stream of efforts to create conflict in a land which is not Palestine," he said.

The King voiced high appreciation of the Jordanian people's awareness of these destructive efforts and the people's adherence to their national identity and their preservation of Jordan as a shield for Palestine and the Arab Nation."

The King called for continued support of the Palestinian people and their blessed uprising until it reaches its

objectives. He also urged efforts to abort moves aimed at undermining "our blessed and sacred national unity under which all citizens are equal in rights and obligations."

"There is no distinction between one citizen from another," the King said. "The people of this country will equally share all its offers and there is no room except for

equal rights and equal obligations."

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, in his name and in the name of all ministers, expressed pride in the trust of His Majesty and pledged to continue to implement His Majesty's directives, whether on the national or pan-Arab level.

The Cabinet meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem.

Cabinet undergoes limited reshuffle

(Continued from page 1)

reshuffle since Rifai was appointed premier by King Hussein in April 1985.

Kanaan has served as director of education in the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). He held a ministerial post in the government of Ahmad Obaidat which preceded the Rifai government and also served as member of the now-defunct National Consultative Council.

Toukan served as professor at the University of Jordan.

Committee abolished

In another decision in implementation of the Jordanian move to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank, the cabinet announced Saturday that the Higher Committee for West Bank affairs was abolished. The committee was set up in 1972.

The committee was specifically responsible for the various administrative, financial and social affairs in the West Bank. The committee also supervised the traffic of people and goods between both banks of River Jordan.

The King announced Sunday

that Jordan was severing legal and administrative ties with the West Bank in compliance with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) wishes and Arab summit resolutions and to allow the PLO to shoulder its responsibilities in full as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

PLO team due Thursday

A senior PLO official in Jordan told the Jordan Times Saturday that a high-level PLO delegation was scheduled to arrive here Thursday for discussions. He did not say who will head the delegation but agency reports indicated that it could be Mahmoud Abbas, a member of the PLO Executive Committee. The PLO official in Amman said: "Our relationship with Jordan is special... we are partners, and the Palestinian delegation due to arrive here on Thursday will discuss PLO coordination with Jordan."

"We are committed to the special relationship between the PLO and Jordan (and) we are committed to the unity... and a confederation with Jordan," he said. He added: "The final decision will be made clear after this week's talks in Amman."

Government-in-exile

In reply to a question on reports of proposals to announce a Palestinian government-in-exile, the official said: "I think that the PLO is not ready at this time to adopt such a measure."

He pointed out that any such measure would "need Arab and international acceptance and recognition."

Asked whether the PLO would be able to fill the vacuum left by the Jordanian move, the official, who insisted on anonymity, said: "The problem is not of the responsibility but of the political and legal vacuum."

Passports

He said he believed that Jordan would not withdraw Jordanian passports issued to residents of the West Bank. "It is an Arab problem," he said.

"I am sure that that no Jordanian of Palestinian origin carrying a valid Jordanian passport will lose his passport... this is a direct statement from the Jordanian minister of interior," he said.

A senior Jordanian official, who also preferred anonymity, quoted by the Associated Press Saturday as saying that "Jordan will stay committed to the rights of all of its citizens, regardless of origin, unless the PLO asks the contrary."

"Any citizen who holds a Jordanian passport, wherever he resides and regardless of his origin, is a son of this country and a part of our big family," the official said.

The official affirmed that Jordan "will continue to provide the people of the West Bank with all the social services they need and will never deny them such rights."

He was referring to civil documents — marriage, death and birth certificates etc. — that the Kingdom provided through its institutions in the West Bank despite the Israeli occupation."

Iraq said the offensive along the 1,200-kilometre front was to regain Iranian-held territory and to capture prisoners, who would be used as a bargaining counter in peace talks.

Iraq captured 18,000 prisoners in the offensive and now holds 30,000 Iranian prisoners of war (PoWs), compared with more than 50,000 Iraqis registered by the International Committee of Red Cross as held in Iran.

Uprising leaders' 'options'

According to reports from the West Bank, leaders of the Palestinian uprising may declare an independent state following Jordan's decision to sever ties with the West Bank.

Sources quoted by Reuters said this was among three options

under study by the underground leaders.

Issuing a "declaration of independence" for a Palestinian state under occupation in the West Bank would be designed to bring pressure on the international community to recognise Palestinian self-determination.

Rajavi pointed to "the Khomeini regime's mass public executions of innocent people, including the execution of seven innocent residents of Kermanshah on Aug. 1," according to Mujahedeen communiqué telecast from Baghdad to the Jordan Times Friday.

The second option was forming a government-in-exile, which has been discussed in PLO circles for

Iran Mujahedeen call for urgent action against mass executions

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer
with agency dispatches

AMMAN — The Iranian opposition movement, Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, has issued an urgent appeal for international action against what it describes as mass public executions of dissidents by the Iranian regime.

In a telegram addressed to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Mujahedeen leader Massoud Rajavi appeared to be calling on the U.N. to expel Iran.

Rajavi pointed to "the Khomeini regime's mass public executions of innocent people, including the execution of seven innocent residents of Kermanshah on Aug. 1," according to Mujahedeen communiqué telecast from Baghdad to the Jordan Times Friday.

The Khomeini regime does not deserve to be a member of the family of the United Nations," it said. "Due to its medieval nature, the Khomeini regime has always been and will remain the source of export of crisis and terrorism. Therefore, the establishment of any form of lasting peace in the region, the longstanding and principal desire of the Iranian nation and resistance, is impossible without considering the conduct of this regime."

Earlier Friday, Iran's chief justice hinted that Mujahedeen-e-Khalq members were being executed without trial after its offensive into western Iran last week.

The telegram said that the Khomeini regime had resorted to the brutal torture and murder of prisoners of the war.

Rajavi also referred the "execution of more than 70,000 persons and the infliction of 73 kinds

of torture on 140,000 political prisoners." He asserted that despite Iran's signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Charter, the ruling regime in Tehran "does not have the slightest regard for humanitarian principles or international conventions."

And "this regime has declared that it does not at all value the principles of civilised world but abides by a code of bloody savagery which it terms 'Islamic law.'

Rajavi urged the secretary-general, "in the name of peace and freedom for the people of Iran and in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Charter, to give special attention to these crimes in the framework of (his) efforts to promote peace."

Earlier Friday, Iran's chief justice hinted that Mujahedeen-e-Khalq members were being executed without trial after its offensive into western Iran last week.

The deal, which includes the purchase of 40 F-18 warplanes and Maverick missiles, met opposition in Congress which feared a possible threat to Israel and a proliferation of advanced weapons in the Gulf region.

Key congressmen said Wednes-

day Ardebili's remarks showed that Ardebili's remarks showed the Iranian government was intent on "sending groups of defenseless and innocent prisoners to the firing squad to cover up its military defeats."

He called for urgent action by international human rights groups to "prevent criminal and anti-human acts of the Khomeini regime."

Another opposition group said Iran had started executing groups of political prisoners and burying them in mass graves.

A Tudeh (Communist) Party radio broadcast from Kabul, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said Tehran was using the Mujahedeen offensive as a pretext for "an extensive

Kuwait agrees to amend purchase of U.S. arms

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait said Saturday it had agreed to amend an arms deal, worth an estimated \$1.9 billion, with the United States.

"This amendment was made in a way that corresponds to the interests of Kuwait," Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah told the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA).

He gave no details.

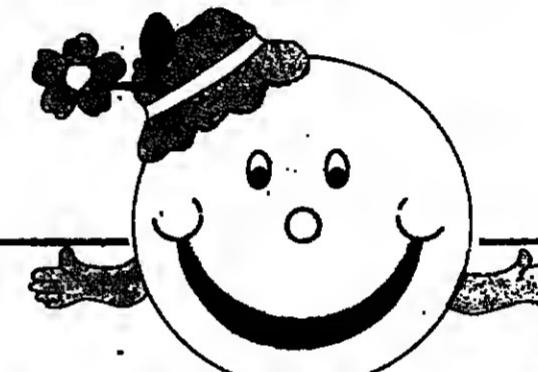
The deal, which includes the purchase of 40 F-18 warplanes and Maverick missiles, met opposition in Congress which feared a possible threat to Israel and a proliferation of advanced weapons in the Gulf region.

Key congressmen said Wednes-

day they had agreed with the Reagan administration to stretch out delivery of the weapons and to exchange the F-18s on a one-for-one basis with A-4 aircrafts now in Kuwait's possession.

They said delivery of the F-18s would be extended to 1994 instead of being completed by 1993 and Kuwait would be allowed to buy only Maverick G missiles instead of a mixture of Maverick Ds and Maverick Gs as originally intended.

The G version of the infrared guided missile was designed primarily for use against ships while the D version was for use against tanks.



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Iraq to privatise 47 firms

BAGHDAD (R) — The Iraqi government is to sell off 47 state-run factories across the country in a drive to boost private industry, a Baghdad newspaper reported Saturday.

The English-language Baghdad Observer said Hussein Kamel, newly-appointed minister of industry and military industrialisation, announced the decision at a recent meeting with a group of businessmen.

"The sale of factories to the private sector is designed to give a wider role for this sector in pushing forward Iraq's economic development," Kamel was quoted as saying.

He said that if private business were not interested in buying the factories, the government would form them into cooperatives with shares initially sold to employees.

The paper gave no details of the factories but business sources said they mostly made textile, plastic and aluminium products.

Kamel said the Military Industry Commission, which he also

heads, had prepared a large fleet of heavy trucks for private sale to companies or individuals.

"The objective is to facilitate the export of Iraqi goods, commodities and raw materials to Arab and foreign markets," Kamel said.

"The fleet will hopefully undertake to transport Iraqi imports which currently cost the country large sums in hard currency," he added.

The Military Industry Commission runs a high-technology network making heavy equipment for military and civilian use —

including Iraq's Al Hussein missile which it used to bombard Iran during the war of the cities which halted in April.

Kamel said the importers would be allowed to pay 60 per cent of the cost of imported machinery to foreign suppliers in hard currency, instead of the present 50 per cent. This was to encourage investment in the private sector.

He called on Iraqi businessmen to explore new areas of enterprise with an emphasis on making components essential for existing national industries.

Jordan toughens terms for contractors

AMMAN (Petra) — Contractors with no valid classification certificates from the concerned authorities would not be allowed to purchase tender documents nor will they be allowed to take part in bid-offering for government tenders, according to an official communiqué issued by the prime minister's office Saturday.

The communiqué ruled that contractors who have been awarded tenders should honour all the terms of their contracts and duly carry them out; and should not endorse them to other contractors against a commission.

The communiqué also made it clear that a contractor should be present at the site of any project under construction and should not entrust any agent or technical team, provided by other contractors, to supervise the implementation of the project.

It said that the concerned authorities will not accept any tender guarantees except only under names of persons or companies involved in the tender or to whom a given tender had been awarded.

New Lebanese liras to ease paper burden

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon will ease the burden of harassed shoppers carrying huge wads of devalued paper money when it circulates new large-unit banknotes this week.

A central bank statement Saturday said the banknotes for 500 and 1,000 Lebanese liras would be issued Wednesday, not because of the economic climate but "to facilitate the citizen's everyday transactions."

It did not give the total value of the new issues, which have been printed in London.

The Lebanese lira, once the strongest currency in the Middle

East, plunged in the last four years in the face of high inflation, political instability and continuing civil war.

It was worth four to the U.S. dollar in early 1984. Friday, it closed at around 350 to the dollar.

The highest-denomination banknote in circulation now is 250 liras (70 cents), and many people carry their money in bags. Cash.

The central bank cancelled plans to float the new notes last year because, economists said, it might have sparked market hysteria.

UAE bank wants better Soviet ties

MOSCOW (R) — One of the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) biggest bank is prepared to finance joint ventures with Soviet partners and consider fresh credits for Soviet banks, its chairman said in an interview published Saturday.

Suror Ibn Sultan Al Dhaheri, chairman of the Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, told the official news agency TASS during a visit

that the bank was studying further financial and commercial cooperation with the Soviet Union.

"The Abu Dhabi Commercial bank is prepared to finance the creation of joint ventures of Soviet and foreign partners," Al Dhaheri said.

Following the success of a \$50 million credit granted to the Soviet Union in April the bank

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for August 6, 1988.

Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:		
Jordan Cement Factories	23731 JD	28601
Arab Bank Ltd.	70 JD	7635
Jordan National Bank	3025 JD	7563
Parallel market:		
	17704 JD	7874
Development bonds:		
	198 JD	2079
Treasury bills & bonds:		
	—	—
Other debentures:		
	—	—

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday rates	
Local self/buy rates in fils	
Belgian franc (for 10)	93.8
Dutch guilder	173.7
French franc	58.1
Italian lira (for 100)	26.8
Japanese yen (for 100)	27.4
Swedish krona	57.6
U.K. sterling pound	627.4
U.S. dollar	571.3
Deutschmark	196.0
Saudi riyal	100.0
Syrian lira	10.52
Lebanese lira	1.1
Iraqi dinar	290.5
Kuwaiti dinar	1310.0
Egyptian pound	160.0
Omani riyal	102.2
UAE dirham	101.2
Bahraini dinar	967.0
Bahraini dinar	992.5

JORDAN BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Ministry of Industry and Trade	663191	Jordan Commercial Centres Corporation	602507
Ministry of Supply	602121	Free Zones Corporation	647001
Ministry of Finance	636322	Amman Financial Market	660170
Ministry of Planning	644466	Amman Chamber of Commerce	666151
Ministry of Labour	663186	Amman Chamber of Industry	647477
Ministry of Communications	47391	Income Tax Department	660151
Ministry of Agriculture	639391	Central Bank of Jordan	620301
Ministry of Health	672181	Amman Customs Department	643001
Ministry of Social Affairs	643000	Jordan Social Security Corporation	641671
Ministry of Education	721194	General Statistics Department	647370
Ministry of Environment	—	Jordan Industrial Estates Association	680663

Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, July 30, '88 and ending Wednesday Aug. 3, '88. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company Number of shares Volume of trade Opening price Closing price Par value

Banking and financial institutions	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Industrial Development Bank	2551	3825	1,530	1,500	1,000
Petra Bank	1500	2587	1,740	1,710	1,000
Jordan Islamic Bank	3900	4123	1,430	1,410	1,000
Jordan Kuwaiti Bank	1237	1544	1,240	1,250	1,000
Jordan Gulf Bank	—	—	—	—	1,000
Housing Bank	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	6250	13125	2,100	2,080	1,000
Cairo Amman Bank	1000	28000	28,500	28,000	5,000
Bank of Jordan	222	3294	15,150	14,860	5,000
Arab Bank	490	54198	112,500	109,000	10,000
Jordan National Bank	4150	10489	2,550	2,520	1,000
Jordan Finance House for Development	1900	1748	0,920	0,920	1,000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	5326	9674	2,110	2,050	1,000
National Financial Investments	29550	16999	0,580	0,540	1,000
National Portfolio Securities	21970	30546	1,800	1,800	1,000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	150	2172	0,720	0,680	1,000
Jordan Securities Corporation	841	207	1,580	1,580	1,000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	250	3500	14,000	14,000	10,000
Al Mashreq Exchange	—	—	—	—	—

Insurance and reinsurance

Jordan French Insurance	1750	8117	5,300	4,600	1,000
REFCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	23131	22891	11,970	10,940	1,000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Holy Land Insurance	25001	3150	1,250	1,260	1,000
Philadelphia Insurance	1200	984	0,810	0,820	1,000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
General Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
National Ahliya Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Universal Insurance	800	485	0,960	1,070	1,000
—	200	225	1,230	1,110	1,000

Services and industries

General Investments	200	252	1,250	1,260	1,000
Intra for Investment and Financial Facilities	8292	5585	0,680	0,670	1,000
Ditra for Housing and Investment	10062	10491	0,540	0,530	1,000
Real Estate Investment (Aqara)	4420	2012	0,490	0,460	1,00

Accord reached on Angola truce

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Negotiators have agreed on a ceasefire between South African and Cuban-Angolan forces in Angola, as well as a mutual pullback of troops, a newspaper reported Saturday.

Delegations from the three countries announced Friday in Geneva that they had agreed on an unspecified "sequence of steps" for peace in southwestern Africa. Details are to be disclosed next week after the negotiators report to their governments.

The Star, South Africa's largest daily, said the steps included a ceasefire.

It said that South African troops were to withdraw from southern Angola, where they have been aiding the UNITA rebel movement, and that Cuban forces were to withdraw to at least 100 kilometres north of Angola's border with Namibia.

Angola-based guerrillas of the South-West African People's Organisation (SWAPO), the main guerrilla group fighting for Namibian independence, also

would be required to pull away from the border, the Star said.

The four-day session in Geneva was the fifth round of U.S.-mediated talks since May aimed at resolving the 13-year-old war in Angola and bringing about independence for Namibia.

Another round of talks is scheduled within three weeks, with the exact date and location to be announced.

Cuba previously offered to withdraw its troops from Angola over a four-year period. The troops have helped the government fight UNITA, which receives military aid from South Africa and the United States.

A UNITA spokesman in Lisboa, Alcides Sakala, indicated his organisation would not observe a ceasefire unless it is brought into the negotiations.

"As long as UNITA is not a part of the (talks) process, no

offer in Pretoria.

South Africa proposed a ceasefire in Angola from next Wednesday and independence for Namibia by June next year.

The offer was conditional on the Cuban troops leaving Angola by next June and on the removal of anti-South African bases from Angola.

The quarrel was quickly patched up. Angola and Cuba put forward secret counter-proposals and negotiators got down to some of the hardest bargaining since the four-nation talks began last May. The talks ran into an unscheduled fourth day.

It was not clear whether the role of these organisations was addressed in Geneva.

South Africa also proposed Tuesday to start withdrawing its estimated 50,000 troops from Namibia Nov. 1. South Africa's mandate over Namibia was terminated by the United Nations in 1966, but in defiance of several U.N. Security Council resolutions, it has retained control over the territory.



Women demonstrators sing a song while displaying church outside the Lambeth conference centre in placards highlighting attitudes to women in Canterbury.

Runcie says conference a success

CANTERBURY (AP) — Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, leader of the world's 70 million Anglicans, told the closing session of the Lambeth Conference of Bishops Saturday that it had been called an "impossible" conference but had been a success.

"Some thought this conference was impossible. Reason and experience suggested we would fall apart. But keeping our eyes on the Lord we have not sunk," the archbishop said in the text of his speech released in advance.

Runcie did not directly refer to the controversial issue of the like consecration of the church's first woman bishop, which critics said would break up the three-week conference in Canterbury, wrecking the Anglican communion.

Opponents say the consecration will irreparably damage the bonds with Anglican Churches

ion of 27 self-governing churches covering 164 countries.

Runcie said: "I hope I speak for many others beside myself in testing that this conference has for me created spiritual energy and fresh vision."

Other issues at the first meeting for 10 years of the Anglican bishops were overshadowed by the question of female bishops. The Anglican churches in the United States, Canada, and New Zealand have said they may consecrate female bishops this year.

Opponents say the consecration will irreparably damage the bonds with Anglican Churches which want to keep the all-male episcopate, causing the Anglican communion to decline into a loose federation, with some churches or dioceses breaking away.

But Runcie masterminded a compromise resolution which by a 423-28 vote pledged the churches to respect one another's decisions and instructed him to set up and head a commission to examine relations between the churches when a woman bishop is consecrated.

After three weeks of debate over issues of poverty, injustice, militarism and war, Runcie was optimistic:

"Common life — that is what we have experienced here, a common life which lies at the heart of the communion," he said.

Kenya bans erotic video tapes

NAIROBI (AP) — The government has banned 193 erotic video tapes from public or private viewing, including one adapted from D.H. Lawrence's novel "Lady Chatterley's Lover," Nairobi newspapers reported Saturday. It became illegal to possess or show the films after the government

printed a list of the banned films in the Kenya Gazette. The films include "Behind the Green Door," "Nude Jello Wrestling Special," and series of films entitled "Caligula," "Cinderella 2000" and "Electric Blue."

Government officials also warned that they would make spot checks at homes to inspect private video collections.

'Baker knows a lot of big words'

WASHINGTON (R) — Vice President George Bush suggested Friday he expected to reap a campaign windfall from outgoing Treasury Secretary James Baker heading his campaign because

Baker knows a lot of big words. "Look, how many candidates will have a chairman of their campaign that can explain to the American people disintermediation, the snake and special drawing rights?" Bush said at a news conference. "Think about that now."

Bush was responding to a question on what made him think he could beat Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, the Democratic presidential nominee. Bush left the news conference before anyone could ask him to explain the terms himself.

Jealous snake given to zoo

LONDON (R) — A man who gave his jealous pet snake to a zoo after it threatened to break up his love life was told the reptile could have killed him.

Mark Benham said his pet, a four-metre long Burmese Python, insisted on lying between him and his girlfriend when they sat together and took to squeezing him tightly around the waist.

His girlfriend said he had to choose between them. Curator Neville Wilby, who accepted the snake at his northern English zoo, said Benham was lucky to be alive as the Burmese Python was a natural killer.

"They may appear affectionate as pets but they can squeeze the life out of you," he said.

Man bites dog

PIETERMARITZBURG, South Africa (AP) — Four-year-old police dog Rex was bitten on the ear and suffered a serious neck injury when a suspect turned on him during an arrest, police said Tuesday.

Constable Philip Rajah had to pull the man off the dog, police said. Rajah and Rex were on patrol in the Natal provincial capital during the weekend when they came across "two suspicious individuals," police said. While Rajah searched one man, Rex chased the other, but got the worst of the fight when he caught up with his quarry.

Police said Rex was being treated for his neck injury at a veterinary clinic and the man he arrested was being investigated for a possible charge of malicious injury to state property.

COLUMN TO THE POINT

Hamlisch named to arts council

WASHINGTON (AP) — Composer and pianist Marvin Hamlisch, a frequent performer at the U.S. White House, has been named by President Ronald Reagan to be a member of the National Council on the Arts. Hamlisch has written numerous scores for movies and Broadway musicals, including "They're Playing Our Song" and "A Chorus Line," which won a Pulitzer Prize and a Tony Award. He often is host of a broadcast concert series presented at the White House and is a favourite of Nancy Reagan's. If his nomination is confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Hamlisch would succeed oboelist Alene Drury on the arts council. The council is the chief advisory arm of the National Endowment for the Arts.

First children, then lions

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazil, rocked by scandals over baby stealers, has a new problem — cubnappers. The three-month old lion cub Simba was stolen from his cage at a circus in the centre of Rio Monday. Circus manager Tabacaria Pimenta said he feared the cub, adopted as the troupe's mascot after his birth there, would be sold. "I knew they were stealing babies in Brazil, but a lion is something else," Pimenta told reporters.

North trial delay helps Bush

WASHINGTON (AP) — The trial of ex-White House aide Oliver L. North was postponed Friday until after the presidential election in November to give lawyers more time to study hundreds of thousands of top-secret documents.

The decision by U.S. District Judge Gephard A. Gesell cancelling the Sept. 20 trial date means the first criminal trial arising from the Iran-contra affair won't be held while Republican Vice President George Bush campaigns for the presidency.

Gesell did not schedule a new trial date but ordered North's lawyers to file any additional motions by Oct. 10.

The judge also set that date as the deadline for the prosecution to give North all the top-secret documents the court has ruled

may be needed for the retired marine lieutenant colonel's defense.

The brief order was issued after both sides requested delays in dealing with the problems posed by the vast archive of top-secret documents.

Gesell's brief order also cancel-

led a hearing scheduled for Monday on how to present secret documents as evidence during the trial under the classified information procedures act.

Gesell also ordered North to file by Nov. 14 a more specific notice of what top-secret government documents he wants to disclose at trial.

The order highlights the problems that continue to dog the efforts of independent counsel Lawrence Walsh, the prosecutor assigned to the case by Congress.

The independent counsel has told Gesell many of the documents in North's discovery request will never be released by government agencies for use at the trial.

Senate blocks SDI budget bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — The measure now on the Senate floor is also based on a \$4.0 billion SDI budget. Republican Senator Malcolm Wallop of Wyoming, moved to add \$500 million to that account.

Wallop said Congressional reductions in the SDI budget mean that the entire range of possible anti-missile technologies cannot be pursued.

But Democratic Senator James Exon of Nebraska, said "if we have additional money" in the defence department budget,

"there are other, higher priority places for that money to go."

He said it should be budgeted to improve conventional defences, particularly in Western Europe.

The bill appropriates money to pay for defence department programmes that would have been authorised by the earlier measure rejected by Reagan.

The Senate is trying to finish the bill before it leaves next week for a recess that won't end until after Labour Day.

Moscow, Kabul accuse Pakistan of violations

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze met Afghan President Najibullah in Kabul Friday, and the two accused Pakistan of violating the Afghanistan peace agreement, the official news agency TASS reported.

In Islamabad, Radio Kabul said the visit ended 24 hours after it began, giving scant details.

Shevardnadze made the unexpected trip to the Afghan capital Thursday, one day after he accused Pakistan of terrorism during a meeting in Moscow with Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan.

Pakistani backs insurgents, Mujahideen, who are fighting Afghanistan's pro-Soviet government.

During the meeting with Najib, "much attention was given to Pakistan's actions which systematically and seriously violated its pledges to prevent interference and which actually committed at international terrorism against Afghanistan," TASS said.

In Islamabad, Pakistan Western diplomats told reporters earlier that repeated rocket barrages on the Afghan capital reportedly have put an increasing burden on Soviet troops to maintain Kabul's defences. Afghan guerrillas are being blamed for the rocket attacks.

TASS said Shevardnadze told Najibullah about unspecified actions it was taking to stop violations of the April 14 Geneva agreement to end the Afghan conflict.

But Soviet officials say the withdrawal is proceeding according to schedule.

A senior Western diplomat in Moscow said Friday that it was unclear why Shevardnadze went to Kabul, but that there was no indication the Soviets were planning to slow the pace of withdrawal because of Pakistani aid to the rebels, or the insurgents' increasing attacks on government forces.

Bet on eight and hope for best

By Dan Biers
The Associated Press

HONG KONG — The local Chinese belief that eight is an auspicious number has many residents giddy with expectation of good fortune Monday — 8-8-88.

But they'll still have to watch out for ghosts. Aug. 8, 1988, will be marked by weddings aplenty, a special lottery and a variety of ceremonies as local residents hope the good luck associated with the day's wealth of eights rubs off.

Cantonese-speaking Chinese, who make up the vast majority of this British colony's 5.7 million people, have long considered eight to be lucky.

In the Cantonese dialect, the word for eight is "baat," which sounds like "faat," the word for prosperity.

That similarity of sound is enough to convince superstitious Chinese of the number's wonders. In February, for example, Hong Kong businessman Law Ting-Pong paid a record \$641,000 for a license plate bearing the single digit "8".

Many Hong Kong couples figure the best way to ensure a life of marital bliss is to have their wedding ceremonies Monday. About 300 couples have registered to marry that day, double the normal number, government spokesman Stephen Chan said.

"In Hong Kong, people say this is the most lucky day," he said. "Everybody likes that day."

The colony's lottery is holding a special drawing, Monday with a jackpot sweetened by an additional 3,888,888 Hong Kong dollars (nearly \$500,000) to mark the once-in-a-century date. The final size of the pot will depend on the amount of money bet.

Gambling is a major obsession of local residents, who typically spend 12 million Hong Kong dollars (\$1.5 million) in each semiweekly lottery drawing. Monday's enhanced jackpot is likely to increase the action.

Meanwhile, a ceremony complete with roast pig

roasting will be held 70 floors above the colony Monday to mark the placement of the final beam atop the new bank of China building, construction project director Martin Hadaway said.

China's official bank originally hoped to move into its new local headquarters Monday, but the building will not be ready for occupancy until next year.

Local astrologer "Rockey" Sung Siu-Kwong, who puts his faith in the traditional Chinese calendar, acknowledged that Monday will be good for marriages and for burying the dead.

"It is a good day, but not a special one," he said.

Sung said he would not advise clients to open a business Monday because the day falls during the Chinese month of ghosts, when spirits of the dead prance about the world of the living.

He suggested new businesses open after Aug. 26, when the ghosts return to the underworld "and the order on earth will be restored."

Indeed, Aug. 8, has not proved an auspicious date for everybody.

Hong Kong's new light rail transit system to serve the rural new territories near the Chinese border was to begin operating Monday but has been postponed because of a series of mishaps during test runs.

In the most serious accident, a train on a trial run and a van collided at a crossing last month, killing an 8-year-old boy and injuring four other family members in the van.

Sung also said Monday was not good for travel or emigration, one of the hottest activities among jittery Hong Kong professionals seeking to leave the territory before it reverts to communist China in 1997.

Such warnings, however, will not upset the plans of a company publishing a new magazine titled "The Emigrant," which caters to residents seeking to move overseas.

The day the first edition is hit the newsstands? Monday, of course.